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NOTES FROM THE JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE OF BURGESSES, 1727-1734.

(*Continued from Vol XXI., p. 257.*)

February 1, 1727.—The General Assembly convened this day at Williamsburg, before the Hon. William Gooch, Governor. Oaths administered by Richard Fitz William, John Grymes, William Dandridge and John Curtis, Esqrs., to 46 Burgesses, to John Randolph, Esq., clerk of the House, and Philip Finch, gent., sergeant-at-arms. John Holloway unanimously chosen speaker. "And the mace was brought in and laid under the table." Speech of Governor Gooch. He recommended a battery at Point Comfort and a light house at Capt. Henry.

February 2.—Miles Cary appointed clerk to the committees of Privileges and elections, and of Public claims, Mr. Fontaine appointed Chaplain. William Francis, Nicholas Wager, William Johnson, and John Mundel appointed door keepers of the House.

February 5.—Mr. Richard Hickman appointed clerk of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances. A petition of Nicholas Jones, clerk, to more effectually compel Quakers to pay parish levies.

February 6.—Petition of Nathan Newby and Robert Jordan that the Quakers be exempted from Military service. Rejected.

Petition of Esdras Theodor Edzard, clerk, minister of Hanover parish, King George Co.

A petition of Gawin Corbin, Richard Johnson, and John Dixon complaining of an undue election of John Robinson. Ordered that William Todd, Robert Baylor, Henry Hickman and Robert Dudley, gent, Justices of the Peace for the County of King and Queen examine witnesses.

Ordered that Mr. Blair, Mr. Robert Armistead, Mr. Hollier and Mr. Roscow do report on the present condition of the battery at Point Comfort.

February 7.—Ordered that James Wallace and Jacob Walker, two of the justices of Elizabeth City County, be sent for to answer for not certifying a complaint against the vestry of the parish.

February 8.—Inhabitants of that part of St. Peter's parish, formerly a part of Wilmington parish, petition for a chapel, and inhabitants of that part of Blissland parish formerly Wilmington petition to be united to St. Peter's. Petitions rejected.

February 9.—Petition of Charles Kymball for his usual allowance as interpreter for the Sapony Indians.

February 10.—Petition of Henry Embry, William Wynne and Richard Burch for a reward for apprehending two negroes slaves, who murdered their Master Henry Maynard.

Mr. Jacob Walker and Mr. James Wallace attended and gave their reason for not certifying the grievances of several inhabitants, after paying fees.

February 13.—Edward West taken into custody for insulting Mr. Andrews, a member.

A petition of John Tyler was presented to the House & read, praying to be allowed some recompence for his service in overseeing and finishing the Magazine & the two wings of the church, which were built by the Donation of the General Assembly.

February 14.—Edward West knelt at the bar, was reprimanded by the speaker, and upon his knees asked pardon of Mr. Andrews and of this house.

February 20.—A petition of Godfrey Pole was presented to this house and read, reciting that he had been clerk of the Commitee of Propositions & Grievances for ten

years and that by reason of bad weather and sickness he had been prevented from applying for the office at the beginning of the session. Mr. Hickman being willing to resign said office, Mr. Pole was appointed accordingly.

February 22.—William Parks authorized to print the laws of the Colony now in force.

February 23.—The committee appointed report upon the battery at Point Comfort. It had twenty large iron cannon some so honey combed that they are not fit for service. The soil near the Point is sand, and they recommend a battery of twelve guns to be placed a little further back, which will command the channel that is nearly a mile over. £250 pds sufficient to build and erect the said battery. The House resolves that the charge should be paid out of the Revenue of two shillings ℔ hogshead on tobacco & fifteen pence ton upon shipping, which was one of the purposes of laying these duties.

February 27.—£500 ordered to be paid the Lt. Governor as an evidence of the respect of all the people of Virginia for his great zeal and kind and affable behavior to all degrees of people.

March 5.—A petition of Mr. Graeme, the attorney of Col. Spotswood, in regard to certain vouchers.

March 8.—Report of the committee regarding the funds put in Col. Spotswood's hands in the seventeenth year of the reign of the late King George.

March 16.—Petition of Sundry German Protestants, inhabiting near the mountains in the county of Spotsylvania, praying to be settled in a separate parish, to the end they may be enabled to procure and maintain a minister of their own language.

March 28.—Petition of Mrs. Elizabeth Page of London, administratrix of her brother John Page, Eq., deceased, that the money due said John Page for a parcel of land upon which part of the City of Williamsburg is built be paid to Mann Page, her attorney.

Mr. John Randolph appointed agent to solicit the House of commons of Great Britain for a repeal of a late act of Parliament prohibiting the importation of tobacco stript from the stalk.

March 30.—House prorogued till Nov. 14, next.

Thursday, May 21, 1730.—The House convenes after Several prorogations. Mr. Richard Hickman appointed clerk of the Committee for Propositions and Grievances in the room of Mr. Godfrey Pole, deceased.

May 26.—A petition of the German inhabitants of the German town, in the county of Stafford, praying to be exempted from paying a tax to the parish in which their own lies during the life of Mr. Haeger, their minister. They set forth that for several years they have maintained a minister of of their own nation.

Resolved *remine contradicente* that John Randolph, Esq., be paid £1000 for his expenses to Great Britain and returning, and as recompense for his obtaining a repeal of a clause of an act of Parliament made in the ninth year of the reign of the late King George, the first, prohibiting the importation of tobacco stript from the stalk or stem into Great Britain.

May 27.—The governor recommends an allowance to Capt. Embry, who with 37 men of the militia of Surry County, was sent out to scour the southern frontiers of mischievous Indians on account of a murder committed.

Ordered that the small windows in the end of the chamber of the House of Burgesses and those in the General Court be altered and made into sash windows uniform to the rest. Council's concurrence desired.

May 30.—Petition of William Todd complaining of the act to erect the town of Falmouth on his land.

June 11.—Petition of Samuel Harwood, the elder, and John Edloe, church-wardens of Westover parish, in Charles City County, for permission to sell certain church lands, and to purchase with the funds a new glebe.

June 23.—Petition of Frances Greenhill, widow of Joseph Greenhill deceased.

June 25.—Officers of the General Assembly paid: John Randolph, clerk of the House of Burgesses £100, William Robertson, clerk of the General Assembly £50, Richard Hickman, clerk of the Committee of Propositions and Grievances £40, Benjamin Needler, clerk of the Committee of Courts of Justice £40, Miles Cary, clerk of the Committee of Publick Claims £40, Philip Finch, sergeant at arms £40, Francis Fontaine, chaplain of the House £20, doorkeeper of the council £20, doorkeepers of the House Nicholas Wager, John Marshall, William Francis and John Marshall £7.10 each.

June 27.—A petition of the Justices of Elizabeth City County regarding 810 acres left by Thomas Eaton for maintaining a free school and for the education of poor children.

June 30.—Address of the Burgesses to the King against the royal grants of the Northern Neck, and asking to be relieved of them.

July 1.—Richard Fitzwilliam, Esq., censured by the House for a paper entered upon the council Journal complaining of the House for passing an act paying themselves in money and not in tobacco.

July 8.—£100 appropriated to build a covered way from the Governor's house to the offices belonging thereto.

July 9.—The Governor assents to the acts of the session, and the House is adjourned to the 12th of November next.

Aug. 22, 1734.—The House reconvenes. Sir John Randolph resigns as clerk, and Benjamin Needler succeeds him.

Aug. 24.—John Holloway resigns as Speaker, and Sir John Randolph elected.

Aug. 30.—Petition of Mr. Charles Chiswell, in behalf of himself and the Fredericksville Company, setting forth that in 1732 he sent to the Assembly certificates of persons employed in iron works in Hanover and Spotsylvania Counties in 1731 & 1732, and of the parish and county levies paid for said persons. Having been partially reimbursed, asks for a full reimbursement.

Sept. 4.—A petition of Robert Bernard and Charles Tomkies, gents., for docking an entail on lands.

A petition of Miles Wills to keep a public Ferry from his own landing on Mulberry Island in Warwick County to his plantation in Isle of Wight. A bill to restrain the people of Yorktown from keeping two great a number of cattle, horses, sheep or hogs.

September 5. —A petition of Anne Freeman, widow, and Robert Freeman, son and heir apparent of said Anne, Elizabeth Shackelford, widow, and James Shackelford, son and heir apparent of said Elizabeth, and Henry Willis to dock an entail on 900 acres in the parish of Ware, Gloucester Co., whereof the said Anne Freeman and Elizabeth Shackelford were lately seised in fee tail as coparceners and settle to the same uses lands of Henry Willis in Spotsylvania Co.

Sept. 7.—Petition of William Ford, constable for the county of James City and the City of Williamsburg.

Complaint of sundry citizens of Nansemond County in regard to the inconvenient situation of their clerk's office and the destruction by fire of records of that county.

September 10.—Petition of Francis Gouldman.

September 12.—Petition of Thomas Dickson, sergeant of the Hustings Court of Williamsburg.

Sept. 21.—Petition of the Nottoway Indians, setting forth that they possess a tract of land on the southside of the Nottoway river in the parish of Warwicksqueak, in the county of Isle of Wight, and another tract three miles in circumference around the Indian Fort, on the north side of said river; ask to be allowed to sell the latter tract.

Petition of the President and Masters of the College of William and Mary.

Sept. 23.—An order to take Thomas Underwood into custody.

Sept. 25.—A petition of the inhabitants and freeholders of Jamestown was presented to the House and read, setting forth that of late years there have been such great breaches between the river and creek at Sandy Bay, that it is now so dangerous to pass that it is become necessary to secure the banks for a great way on both sides of the said Bay against the violence of the river; and that the charge of these works will be so great that the same cannot be supported without the assistance of the public, asks for help. Petition rejected.

Sept. 26.—Petition of Hancock Dunbar, Clerk, parson of the parish of St. Stephen in the County of King and Queen.

Oct. 1.—Petition of Mr. Drury Stith, surveyor of the county of Brunswick, stating that he did at his own expense run and mark the several dividing lines between the said county and the counties of Prince George, Surry and Isle of Wight.

Oct. 4.—The Speaker and the House attend the governor in the council chamber for his approval of the acts of the session. In the course of his address the Speaker eulogized the Governor for having by his wise, discreet and conciliating conduct banished from the country all faction and parties. And then the Assembly was prorogued to the second Thursday in May next.

May 18, 1732.—The House reconvenes after prorogation from time to time. The Governor makes a speech to the council and Burgesses assembled in the council room. He tells them that his majesty on petition of the British merchants has repealed the act containing the duty on liquors, and that he has received an instruction prohibiting the laying any duty on slaves to be paid by the importer.

May 23.—Petition of William Wilson Holmes and Mary his wife and Richard Barnes for docking land in the county of Richmond.

Petition of Richard Coleman, William Thornton and Francis Thornton.

Petition of Augustine Smith, a member of the House, Major of the militia in Spotsylvania County.

Petition of William Woodford, of the county of Caroline.

June 20.—A reward of 100 £ offered for the conviction of the person who burned St. Mark'sParish Church in the County of Spotsylvania.

June 28.—John Randolph appointed agent for this colony & £2200 to be paid him for his expenses.

July 1.—The governor prorogues the Assembly.